

# Colorado Lawyers COMMITTEE

Pro bono legal advocacy for children and the underserved

## SAVE THE DATE for the 2023 Awards Luncheon

Join us in celebrating the many accomplishments of our volunteers at the 2023 Awards Luncheon on **Wednesday, September 27 at The Ritz-Carlton, Denver**. This year's Keynote Speaker will be Colorado Supreme Court Justice Melissa Hart. For sponsorship and ticket information, visit the CLC [website](#).

### 2023 Award Nominees & Honorees

#### Law Firm of the Year

Ballard Spahr LLP  
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP  
Ogletree Deakins  
Holland & Hart LLP

#### Team of the Year

Denver Legal Night  
Hate Crimes Education Task Force  
Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic  
School Expulsion Pilot Project

#### Legal Legacy Award

*Honors an attorney whose legacy of dedicated service and leadership has fostered a culture within a firm or the larger legal community that elevates the importance of pro bono legal work*

David Stark, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

#### Special Recognition Award

Afghan Asylum Project  
Polsinelli PC



**Justice Melissa Hart**  
Colorado Supreme Court

### Keynote Speaker

Another highlight of the Annual Awards Luncheon will be our **Keynote Speaker, Colorado Supreme Court Justice Melissa Hart**. Justice Hart has served on the Supreme Court since 2017. She is the court's liaison to the Access to Justice Commission and the coordinator of the court's Pro Bono Pledge. In 2021, she worked with the Commission to coordinate a "Listen and Learn" virtual tour of all judicial districts in the state, meeting in 41 sessions with legal representatives and non-legal community service providers to assess how the courts could better serve Coloradans. She has also worked with the Standing Committee on Family Issues to simplify the discovery and trial process in simple divorce cases and helped to stand up the Judicial Department's Pathways to Access Committee.

### Message from Kristin Bronson, Executive Director

Three months into my new role, I remain amazed by the importance of the work of the Colorado Lawyers Committee. Whether it is advising a tenant facing possible eviction at Legal Night, advocating for non-discriminatory housing practices, or negotiating an agreement to eliminate educational inequities in public schools – it is about impact – the impact that the legal community can have, when working together, to right systemic wrongs, and the faith and confidence that work engenders in the legal system and the rule of law.

Creating opportunities for youth and the underserved through pro bono legal service is a broad mission, and the variety and scope of our projects reflect that. It also means that there are many ways for you to engage. And there has never been a better time to get involved in the Colorado Lawyers Committee. The need for volunteers is high, and you can make a real difference through your pro bono service. No matter your area of practice or level of experience, we have a volunteer opportunity for you.

Please join us!



**Kristin Bronson**  
New Executive Director

# Task Force Updates

## Housing Task Force

The Housing Task Force continues to investigate allegations of race discrimination by homeowner associations in their covenant enforcement and foreclosure practices. Task Force members are working with advocates and local elected officials to gather relevant information. The task force is drafting an open records request to be served on the Colorado Department of Regulatory Affairs relating to complaints filed against the HOAs. In a separate project, the Housing Task Force members are evaluating a possible project relating to community benefits agreements in underserved neighborhoods. The project is in the early stages of due diligence but could include a training program on negotiating and drafting community benefits agreements. Once finalized, there is also a need for lawyers representing the impacted community to monitor these agreements for compliance.

## Hate Crimes Education Task Force

Volunteers with the Hate Crimes Education Task Force will continue in-person presentations to local middle and high schools when the new school year begins in August. They present a fictional trial on Colorado's Hate Crimes Statutes to students and teachers. Currently, the Task Force is working on revamping the script, looking at taking it to the national stage, and working on outreach to more schools. If you are interested in volunteering or know a school that might be interested, visit the [CLC website](#).



## Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic

This summer's Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic took place on Tuesday, July 25. Thank you to Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP for hosting. The Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic included a free CLE followed by meetings where teams of lawyers worked with representatives of nonprofits to assess their organization's legal health and answer their legal questions. Members of the organizing committee hosted a match party to pair up nonprofits with attorneys who have relevant experience to the nonprofits' legal questions. Speakers for the CLE portion of the day who presented on Colorado Labor and Employment updates included **Katie Brown** and **Sterling LeBoeuf** (both from Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP). **Rachel James** (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP) presented on Nonprofit Fiduciary Duties and Organizational Documents. Fifty-eight attorney volunteers helped 23 nonprofits.

## School Discipline Subcommittee of the Education Task Force

The School Discipline Subcommittee of the Education Task Force in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center and Colorado Juvenile Defender Center has launched a new pilot program. The School Expulsion Pilot Project provides direct representation to students facing expulsion from school in districts across the state. The intent of this project is to collect data on the lack of due process in expulsion hearings to inform and support further legislation or litigation. Students have a right to an expulsion hearing and related appeal rights, but many families do not have legal assistance to navigate this process. Six law firms, **The Harris Law Firm, Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC, Holland & Hart LLP, Holland & Knight LLP, Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, and Moye White LLP**, all have volunteer attorneys taking these cases. The School Discipline Subcommittee held a training on special education law at Polsinelli PC last month. There are several cases involving special education issues, so the purpose of this training was to help the lawyers feel more comfortable taking on cases with more complex issues and handle Manifestation Determination Reviews.

## OEDIT Small Business Legal Assistance Support

The Small Business Legal Assistance program matches small business owners with volunteer attorneys for a no-cost, hour-long consultation. After the consultation, the business and attorney can decide if they want to continue with a paid relationship. This program is not available to parties entering or in active litigation. OEDIT Small Business Legal Assistance was created out of the previous Colorado COVID Legal Relief program (CCLR). Through CCLR, Legal community partners served over 300 small business owners through Colorado COVID Legal Relief. The partners felt it was important to create the Small Business Legal Assistance program to ensure small businesses have access to these resources on an ongoing basis.



If you are interested in helping small businesses, please register on the [OEDIT website](#). After you register as a volunteer attorney, you will be periodically matched with inquiring business owners. OEDIT will rotate through the list to make sure that no lawyer is contacted more than once before the entire list has been cycled through. We hope that you decide to participate in this valuable program!

## YLD Board Openings

Are you interested in a leadership position and/or networking with other law students and young lawyers? We have four new openings on the YLD Board to assist with Special Projects, PR & Membership and Fundraising & Events. The CLC YLD is open (without charge) to any lawyer or law student who is under 40 years of age or has been in practice fewer than eight years. To serve on the YLD Board, you must be from a CLC contributing firm. To learn more about the open board positions or to apply, please [visit our website](#). Deadline to apply is August 15. A decision will be made by the end of August.

## YLD Summer Social

Last month, the YLD hosted another successful summer social at Rio Grande in Downtown Denver. YLD members joined other young lawyers interested in learning more about the CLC YLD for a happy hour event on July 19 from 5pm to 7pm. Thank you to the Fundraising & Events Team for putting together this event! For anyone interested in joining the YLD, [sign up on our website](#). Questions about the YLD? Reach out to [Mack Wilding](#), YLD Board Chair.

## YLD-Access to Justice Partnership

In light of the growing need for legal assistance in rural areas of Colorado, especially in the 16th District, the Access to Justice Commission reached out to the YLD to recruit volunteers for virtual legal assistance programs that are providing service to rural communities.

The Virtual Pro Se Clinic program is a small 501(c)(3) that provides monthly free legal clinics in 46 counties across Colorado. Each VPC clinic patron has a free, 15-20 minute, one-on-one dialog with a knowledgeable attorney on any Colorado civil issue, all by Zoom. All VPC free legal clinics are on weekdays, in the first two weeks of each month, between 2 pm and 5 pm. In this new form of volunteering, attorneys support the clinics from anywhere they have a webcam-equipped device and broadband access. All volunteer attorneys will receive one-on-one training via Zoom video-conference covering best practices guidance, and ethical issues relating to pro se litigants. In each VPC clinic, the new volunteer can “second chair” together with an experienced volunteer attorney until they are comfortable with the format, resources, subject material, and the technology. Once the volunteer is ready to first chair, the experienced attorney remains available to assist as “second chair,” as needed.

Information on how to sign up to volunteer for the Virtual Pro Se Clinic will be provided to all YLD members soon.

## YLD Grant Program

The goal of the CLC YLD is to empower passionate young lawyers to make a difference. The YLD Grant Program funds members of the YLD to assist in their efforts to further the CLC mission of making a difference for children and the underserved through education, advocacy, and systemic change. YLD members can apply for grants to assist in the costs of pro bono representation, fund materials or space for clinics or other direct services. Apply on the [CLC's website](#).

## Denver Legal Night

Denver Legal Night Clinics are continually being offered in-person on the first and third Wednesday of every month from 5pm-8pm at Centro San Juan Diego. Volunteer lawyers consult with clients to help determine significant legal issues, refer individuals to legal services, and answer other questions about the legal process.

### Did you know?

You do not need training to volunteer at Denver Legal Night. If it is your first time at the clinic, you can shadow another volunteer attorney until you feel comfortable speaking with clients on your own. If you need an interpreter, we will provide one for you. Make a difference and come join us!

<b>August 2</b>	<b>September 6</b>	<b>October 4</b>
<b>August 16</b>	<b>September 20</b>	<b>October 18</b>



## Welcome New Firms



## Welcome New Board Members



**Sam Edwards**  
*Crowell & Moring LLP*



**Stephen Robin**  
*Foley Hoag LLC*



**Tasha Power**  
*Moye White LLP*



**Megan Rash**  
*Sattler Civil Rights Fellow*

## Welcome Megan Rash, Sattler Civil Rights Fellow

Megan is the Sattler Civil Rights Fellow for the 2023 summer. She is a rising 2L at the University of North Carolina School of Law. Megan has a strong interest in civil rights, immigration, and child advocacy. Before starting law school, she worked on Aspen Mountain Ski Patrol as the Accident Investigation Coordinator and as a Director at Cheley Colorado Camps. At Carolina Law, Megan is a member of the Broun National Trial Team and a staff member on the North Carolina Law Review.

### COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE

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